

CONFIDENTIAL

16 March 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: USSR and US Armed Forces Appropriations

1. For the fiscal year 1948 the Russian published appropriations for the armed forces comprise 17% of the total budget. However, it is known definitely that these published figures are misleading and that the actual percentage lies somewhere between 22% and 27%.

2. The corresponding percentage for the US armed forces appropriations to the US total budget is 29%.

/s/ RHH - by DCI to Admiral Souers
R. H. Hillenkoetter 3/16/48
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central Intelligence

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DOCUMENT NO. _____
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CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS 3 2011
NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 30 MAR 1981 REVIEWER: _____

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

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March 15, 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL HILLENKOETTER

SUBJECT: Soviet Military Budget

It is requested that the Central Intelligence Agency submit through this office at the earliest practicable date a response to the enclosed memorandum from Mr. Clark M. Clifford.

We have been advised informally by your Office of Reports and Estimates that an "accurate official estimate" will necessarily be classified information. It is suggested, however, that the response to Mr. Clifford's memorandum contain as much unclassified information as possible in order that it might be used publicly by the President.

In addition to the budget information requested, it is also suggested that you include an estimate of the strength of Soviet armed forces and some means of comparison of the U.S. and Soviet military budgets such as, for example, the rate of pay of privates in the U.S. and Soviet armies.

/s/ SIDNEY W. SOUERS
Executive Secretary

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Approved For Release 2003/06/13 : CIA-RDP80R01731R000800060057-0
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 12, 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL SOUERS:

I shall appreciate an estimate from your staff, or The Central Intelligence Agency, of the current annual expenditures of the Soviet Union for military purposes, expressed in U. S. dollars.

A recent newspaper report stated that:

"The Russian Army, though less than the war strength year 1945 by far, is still mobilized on a huge scale, well-equipped and strategically located. The Soviet military budget for this year, approved last month, is 78 billion dollars, double our entire proposed federal expenditures for this year."

Some question has been raised here as to the accuracy of that statement, and inasmuch as the President may refer publicly to Soviet military expenditures, we wish to have an accurate official estimate for his information.

/s/ Clark M. Clifford

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